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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. Of: SEKINO et al.

Filed: February 7, 2006

For: FUEL SUPPLIERS FOR USE IN FUEL CELLS AND FUEL ...

Docket: NEC NE70217

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled matter, Applicants hereby attach U.S. Patent Office Form PTO-1449, including copies of the references listed therein, which were considered prior to the initial filing, discussed in the specification or cited in the International Search Report of the related PCT application. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed. Where available, English language counterparts and/or abstracts are being provided for the Examiner's convenience. Applicants are not submitting copies of the U.S. Patent references as the Office waived the requirement on July 11, 2003. The claims in the present application are believed to be patentably distinguished over these references.

This information disclosure statement is being made pursuant to the duty of disclosure imposed by law and formulated in 37 CFR 1.56(A). No representation is made that the information thus disclosed in fact constitutes prior art or that it is the closest prior art, inasmuch as 37 CFR 1.56(A) relies on a materiality concept which depends on subjectivity.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 35 U.S.C. § 1.56(c) most

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SEARCH REPORTS DATED FEB 2006

knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a copy of the International Search Report by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of the country or the United States relative to the subject matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the foreign examiner's comments submitted therewith.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman P. Soloway
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 24,315

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

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I hereby certify that this paper and the papers listed thereon are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature of Person Mailing _____
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.

NEC NE70217

APPLICATION NO.

107567326

APPLICANT(S)
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REC'D REC'D PCT/PTO 07 FEB 2006

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FILING

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GROUP ART

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		2000-314376	11.14.2000	JAPAN (w/ Abstract)	F04B	9/06		✓

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.